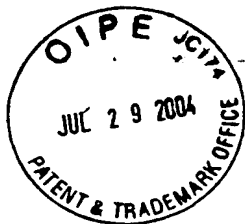


2625



PATENT
8022-1030

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Yoshihiro SASAKI et al.

Confirmation No. 4973

Serial No. 09/841,096

GROUP 2625

Filed April 25, 2001

Examiner John B. Strege

APPEARANCE INSPECTION APPARATUS AND
APPEARANCE INSPECTION METHOD

RECEIVED

AUG 02 2004

Technology Center 2600

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 29, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of May 3, 2004,
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this
paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing
of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

this feature. However, this reference does not disclose or suggest that each of the threads describes a procedure for executing two kinds of image processing in succession. The reference describes a system that is applicable to basic image processing and to image processing requiring advanced calculation at high speed, but does not go so far as to suggest that each of the threads describes the procedure for executing these processes in succession. The threads in the reference are applicable to both processes separately.

Accordingly, amended claims 6 and 14 avoid the rejection under §103.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee of \$86 for the one extra independent claim added herewith to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.